

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Minutes of October 8, 2007**

- I. **ROLL CALL:** Chair Melvin Adams, Selectmen Roger LeClair, Ken Johnson, Charles Morse, and Greg Sanders. Also present were: Manager Nanci Allard, Clerk Samantha Baraw, Jim Baraw (Supervisor, Northfield Ambulance Service), Alana Richard (EMT, Northfield Ambulance Service), Lawton Rutter (EMT, Northfield Ambulance Service), Ed Rearick (EMT, Northfield Ambulance Service), Warren Hagy, Linda Barrows, Zoning Administrator Michele Braun, and Steven Fitzhugh (Chair, Planning Commission)

Chair Adams called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Board recognized the tragic loss of Ben Carr, the Manager Editor of the *Northfield News & Transcript*, who passed away last week. Although he had not been at the paper for less than a year, he was well known for the excellent job he did there. The Board sends its condolences to his family.

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. **September 24, 2007 (Regular Meeting).** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman LeClair, to approve the minutes. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

III. **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

- a. **Warrant #08-08.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to approve Warrant #08-08 in the amount of \$88,529.59. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

IV. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None.

V. **MANAGER'S REPORT**

- a. **Tentative Town Budget Schedule.** The schedule was provided to the Board.
- b. **Status Reports: Various Projects**
1. **Police Station Bond Vote.** There will be Public Hearings held on October 22 and 29, 2007. The vote itself will be by Australian Ballot on Tuesday, October 30, 2007
  2. **Joint Board Meeting (Town Selectmen and Village Trustees).** There will be a Joint meeting regarding the allocation of expenses between Northfield Town and Northfield Village. The tentative date and time is Tuesday, October 23, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.
  3. **Merger Committee.** The Committee will meet on next Monday, October 15, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. Attorney Paul Giuliani will be there to discuss legal issues involving utility districts.
  4. **Dog River Geomorphic study.** Manager Allard attended a meeting in Waterbury last week. The next meeting has not yet been scheduled. The State is working on the grant.

VI. **SELECTBOARD**

- a. **Northfield Snowmobilers Trail Request (Fairgrounds Road):** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman LeClair, to approve the request and have the Selectboard Chair sign the permit. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- b. **Executive Summary: New Ambulance Unit Purchase:** Ambulance Service Supervisor Baraw provided a summary of the information received on the purchase of the new ambulance unit. There was a question of why he recommended Osage/Cromwell GM versus the Professional Vehicle Corporation GM. The Osage is more expensive but provides more safety features for patients and EMTs. The bids are higher than expected. It is expected that this new unit would last ten (10) to thirteen (13) years, versus the normal standard of seven (7) to ten (10) years. It is hoped that we will be able to trade in the old ambulance, but are unsure how much we will get for it. Selectman Johnson is surprised that we've gotten as long as we have out of the current ambulance unit. How far could we push the old one? We could push it another year if necessary but there are several problems. Have any of the members voiced concerns? They've test driven the new one and feel safer in it. Ed Rearick stated that when it comes to crew safety, the old one is not doing it. There are parts flying off while driving – this makes it unsafe not only for the crew but also for other motorists. The noise in the truck is getting really loud and it is difficult to hear what you need to hear for patients. According to Mr. Rearick, the Town Mechanic said that it will soon be unsafe to be on the road with all the rust on the frame. Selectman Morse stated that in reading the articles, we are close to there being a sole vendor, which makes him nervous. Selectman Morse feels that we need to wait until we save an additional \$65,000. Selectman Johnson would like to see this item tabled until the next meeting with a firmer feeling of what needs to be done for maintenance and the estimated costs.

- c. **East-Central Fiber Network (High-Speed Internet):** The towns listed agreed to participate. They are looking to borrow \$15,000,000. They would like have broadband for all areas. The Village Trustees are not interested in participating, we do have providers currently (TDS and Trans-Video) in the Village. The Selectboard has asked for a presentation by the sponsor.
- d. **Norwich Commons Drainage.** There was a request for reconsideration of the request to reimburse 50% of the costs for the water flow in Norwich Commons. The Committee that looked into this was willing to go along with 20%. Selectman Johnson suggested that we leave the offer on the table for another two (2) weeks and if they chose not to take it, we will reimburse nothing. Selectman Morse is in agreement. Motion by Selectman Johnson, seconded by Selectman LeClair, to extend the 20% offer for two (2) more weeks; if there is no response, the offer will be withdrawn. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- e. **Zoning Regulations update:** The latest version of the regulations was approved in February 2006. There was a letter from Zoning Administrator Michele Braun that indicated here were several sections that needed revisions. There was much discussion of the Certificate of Occupancy. There also was discussion of illegal structures, i.e. those built without a permit. If you want to sell your house, you cannot sell if there was not a permit signed for work that was performed. There was a review of each of the revisions suggested. It was discussed that the Planning Commission should come to the Board with recommendations regarding the non-compliance provision. It was discussed that the Planning Commission and the Zoning Regulations be publicized somewhere to highlight the significant changes.
- f. **Bear Farm Road update:** The Highway Committee walked the road from top to bottom and are concerned with the possibility of washout. Is there any action the Board feels is appropriate? The consensus of the Board was there was no appropriate action at this time as the work done was done without permit. If it is felt that the road was damaged and was not left in the "same or better" condition, the Board could ask that the road be improved. There was concern that the board hasn't received any requests for permission to work on Town land. They are requesting CVPS to request permits. Selectman Johnson suggested a letter to all that are working on the road to have their intentions conveyed. The Board wants a copy of the survey and the recommendations from Superintendent of Public Works William Lyon. There was concern of the note in the Manager's Report about the completion of logging and removal of the culverts on Kingston Road. This is the same situation on Bear Farm Road and a report is needed from Superintendent Lyon about work to complete this road.
- g. **Status Reports: Various Projects:** None.

VII. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Non-agenda items

- a. **Linda Barrows.** Ms. Barrows wanted to know if there is Town-owned property and the Town wants it to be logged, who gives permission? She was informed that the Village owns forest land inside the Town. The Village would authorize a logging operation, if they chose, on their land. The Town owns no forest land. In that case, Tom Lincoln logged Village property, according to Ms. Barrows.

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Selectman LeClair, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to adjourn the meeting. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Board adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Samantha H. Baraw*

Samantha H. Baraw, Clerk

These minutes are subject to approval at the next regular meeting.